4° Cavil 1/6 Camb. pet.

HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION

To both Houses of *Parliament*.

(Which he likewise recommends to the consideration of all his loving Subjects)

In answer to that Presented to him at *Newmarket*, March 9. 1641.

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His Maiesties Declaration to both Houses of Parliament.

THough the Declaration lately presented to Us at *New Market*, from both Our Houses of Parliament, be of so strange a nature, in respect of what Wee expected (after so many Acts of Grace and Favour to Our people) and some expressions in it so different from the usuall Language to Princes, that We might well take a very long time to consider it; Yet the clearenesse and uprightnesse of Our Conscience to God, and love to our Subjects, hath supplyed Us with a speedy Answer, and Our unalterable affection to Our people prevailed with Us, to suppresse that passion, which might well enough become Us, upon such an invitation.

We have reconsidered Our Answer of the first of this moneth at *Theobalds*, which is urged to have given just cause of sorrow to Our subjects. Whosoever looks over that Message (which was in effect to tell Us, That if we would not joyne with them (in an Act which We conceived might prove prejudiciall and dangerous to Us and the whole Kingdom) they would make a Law without Us, and impose it upon Our people) will not thinke that sudden answer can be excepted to.

We have little encouragement to replies of this nature, when We are told of how little value Our words are like to be with you, though they come accompanied with all the actions of love and justice (where there is roome for actions to accompany them) yet We cannot but disavow the having any such evill Councell or Councellours about Us, to Our knowledge, as are mentioned, and if any such be discovered, Wee will leave them to the censure and judgement of our Parliament: In the meane time, We could wish, that Our owne immediate actions which We avow, and Our own Honour might not be so roughly censured and wounded, under that common stile of evill Councellours.

For Our faithfull and zealous affection to the true Protestant profes-

profession, and Our resolution to concur with our Parliament in any possible course for the propagation of it, and suppression of Popery, Wee can say no more then We have already expressed in Our Declaration to al our loving subjects, published in January last, by the advice of Our Privie Councell, in which Wee endeavourtd to make as lively a confession of Our selfe in this point, as We were able, being most assured that the constant practice of Our life hath beene answerable thereunto: And therefore We did rather expect a testimony and acknowledgement of such Our zeale and pietie, then those expressions Wee meet with in this Declaration, of any designe of altering Religion in this Kingdom. And Wee do (out of the innocency of Our soule) wish, That the Judgements of Heaven may be manifested upon those, who have or had any such designe.

As for the Scots troubles, We had well thought that those unhappy differences had been wrapt up in perpetuall silence, by the act of oblivion, which being solemnly past in the Parliaments of both Kingdomes, stops Our mouth from any other reply then to shew Our great dislike for reviving the memory thereof.

If the Rebellion in *Ireland*, (so odious to all Christians) seems to have beene framed and maintained in *England*, or to have any countenance from hence, Wee conjure both Our Houses of Parliament, and all Our loving subjects whatsoever, to use all possible meanes to discover and finde such out; that We may joyne in the most exemplary vengeance upon them that can be imagined: But We must thinke Our selfe highly and causelesly injured in Our reputation, if any Declaration, Action, or expression of the Irish Rebels, any Letter from Count *Rosettie* to the Papists for fasting and praying, or from *Treſtram Whitcombe*, of strange speeches uttered in *Ireland*, shall beget any jealousie or misapprehension in Our subjects, of Our justice, piety, and affection, it being evident to all understandings, That those mischievous and wicked Rebels are not so capable of great advantage, as by having their false discourses so farre beleeved, as to raise feares and jealousies to the distraction of this Kingdome, the onely way to their security: And wee cannot expresse a deeper sense of the suffering of Our poore Protestant subjects in that Kingdome, then We have done in Our often Mes-

ſages to both Houſes, by which we have offered, and are ſtill re
dy to venture our Royall perſon for their Redemption, w
knowing, that as Wee are in our owne Intereſt, more concern
in them, ſo We are to make a ſtrict accompt to Almighty Go
for any neglect of our Duty, or their preſervation.

For the manifold attempts to provoake our late Army, and t
Army of the Scots, and to raiſe a faction in the City of *London*, a
other parts of the Kingdome; If it be ſaid, as relating to us, we ca
not without great indignation, ſuffer our ſelf. to be reproache
to have intended the leaſt Force or threatning to our Parliamen
as the being privy to the bringing up of the Army would impl
whereas we call God to witneſſe, we never had any ſuch though
or knew of any ſuch reſolution concerning our late Army.

For the Petition ſhewed to us by Captaine *Leg*, we will r
member the ſame, and the occaſion of that conference: Captai
Leg being lately come out of the North, and repairing to us
Whitehall, we asked him of the ſtate of our Army, and (after ſo
relation made of it) he told us, that the Commanders and offic
of the Army had a mind to Petition the Parliament, as others
our people had done, and ſhewed us the Copy of a Petition, whic
we read, and finding it to be very humble, deſiring the Parliame
might receive no interruption in the Reformation of the Churc
and State, to the modell of Queene *Elizabeths* dayes, we told hi
we ſaw no harme in it: whereupon he replyed, that he beleev
all the Officers of the Army would like it. onely he thought S
Iacob Aſhley would be unwilling to ſigne it, out of feare that
might diſpleaſe us. We then read the Petition over againe, a
then obſerving nothing in matter or forme, we conciued cou
poſſibly give juſt cauſe of offence, we delivered it to him again
bidding him give it to Sir *Iacob Aſhley*, for whoſe ſatisfaction w
had written *C. R.* upon it, to teſtifie our approbation; and w
wiſh that the Petition might be ſeene and publiſhed, and then w
beleeve it will appeare no dangerous one, nor a juſt ground for th
leaſt jealouſie, or miſapprehenſion.

For Maſter *Iermyn*, it is well knowne that he was gone fro
Whitehall before we received the deſire of both houſes for r
ſtra

straint of our servants, neither returned he thither, or passe over by any warrant granted by us after that time.

For the breach of Priviledge in the Accusation of the Lord *Kymbolton*, and the five Members of the Houses of Commons, wee thought we had given so ample satisfaction in our severall Messages to that purpose, that it should be no more pressed against us, being confident if the breach of Priviledge had beene greater then hath beene ever before offered, our acknowledgement and retractation hath beene greater then ever King hath given, besides the not examining how many of our Priviledges have been invaded in defence and vindication of the other; and therefore we hoped our true and earnest Protestation in our answer to your Order concerning the Militia, would so far have satisfied you of our intentions then, that you would no more have entertained any imagination of any other designe then we there expressed.

But why the lifting of so many Officers, and entertaining them at *Whitehall* should be misconstrued, we much marvell, when it is notoriously knowne, the tumults at *Westminster* were so great, and their demeanours so scandalous and seditious, that we had good cause to suppose our owne Person, those of our Wife and Children to be in apparant danger, and therefore we had great reason to appoynt a guard about us, and to accept the dutifull tender of the services of any of our loving Subjects, which was all we did to the Gentlemen of the Innes of Court.

For the Lord *Digby*, we assure you in the word of a King, that he had our Warrant to passe the seas, and had left our Court before we ever heard of the Vote of the House of Commons, or had any cause to imagine that his absence would have beene excepted against.

What your Advertisements are from *Rome*, *Venice*, *Paris*, and other parts, or what the *Popes Nuntio* solicites the Kings of *France* or *Spaine* to doe, or from what persons such Informations come to you, or how the credit and reputation of such persons have been sifted and examined, we know not, but are confident, no sober honest man in our Kingdoms can beleeve, that weare so desprate or so senceleese, to entertain such designes, as would not onely bury this our Kingdome in sudden distraction and ruine, but our owne

name and posteritie in perpetuall scorn and infamy. And therefore we could have wished, that in matters of so high and tender a nature (wherewith the mindes of our good Subjects must needs be startled) all the expressions were so plaine and easie, that nothing might stick with them with reflection upon us, since you thought fit to publish it at all.

And having now dealt thus plainely and freely with you by way of answer to the particular grounds of your feares, We hope (upon a due consideration, and weighing both together) you will not find the Grounds to be of that moment to beget, or longer to continue a misunderstanding betwixt Vs, or force you to apply your selves to the use of any other power then what the Law hath given you, the which we always intend shall be the measure of Our owne power, and expect it shall be the rule of our Subiects Obedience.

Concerning our feares and Jealousies, as wee had no intention of accusing you, so are we sure no words spoken by Us, (on the sudden) at Theobalds, will beare that interpretation. We said for Our Residence neere you, we wisht it might be so safe and Honourable, that we had no cause to absent our selfe from White-Hall, and how this can be a breach of Priviledge of Parliament, wee cannot understand. We explained our meaning in our Answer at New-Market, at the presentation of this Declaration, concerning the Printed seditious Pamphlets and sermons, and the great tumults at Westminster, and we must appeale to you and all the World, whether we might not justly suppose Our selfe in danger of either. and if wee were now at Whitehall, what security have we that the like shall not be againe, especially if any Delinquents of that nature have binne apprehended by the Ministers of Justice, and bin rescued by the people, and so as yet escape unpunished. If you have not bin informed of the seditious words used in, and the circumstances of those Tumults, and will appoint some way for the examination of them, wee wil require some of Our Learned Counsell to attend with such evidence, as may satisfie you, and till that be done, or some other course taken for our security, you cannot, with reason, wonder that wee intend

not

not to be where we most desire to be.

And can there yet want evidence of our hearty and importunate desire to joyne with our Parliament, & al our faithfull subjects, in defence of the Religion & publike good of the Kingdom? have we given you no other earnest but words to secure you of those desires? The very Remonstrance of the House of Commons (published in *November* last) of the state of the Kingdome allowes Us a more reall testimony of Our good affections then words: that Remonstrance valued Our Acts of grace and justice at so high a rate, that it declared the Kingdome to be then a gainer, though it had charged it selfe by Bills of Subsidies and Pol-money, with the leavy of 600000 pounds, besides the contracting of a debt to Our Scots subjects of 220000 pounds.

Are the Bils for the Triennial Parliament, For relinquishing Our Title of imposing upon Merchandize, and power of pressing of Souldiers, for the taking away the Star-Chamber, and the high Commission Courts, For the regulating the Counsell Table, but words? Are the Bills for the Forests, The Stannery Courts, The Clerke of the Market, Aod the taking away the Votes of Bishops out of the Lords House, but words? Lastly, what greater earnest of Our trust and reliance on Our Parliament could or can We give, then the passing of the Bill for the continuance of this present Parliament? The length of which Wee hope will never alter the nature of Parliaments, and the Constitution of this Kingdome, or invite our subjects so much to abuse Our confidence, as to esteeme any thing fit for this Parliament to doe, which were not, if it were in Our power to dissolve it to morrow. And after all these, & many other Acts of Grace on Our part (that We might be sure of a perfect reconciliation betwixt Us and all Our subjects) We have offered, & are still ready to grant a free and generall pardon, as ample as your selves shall thinke fit. Now if these be not reall expressions of the affections of our soule, for the publike good of our Kingdome, we must confesse that we want skill to manifest them.

To conclude (although we think our Answer already full to that poynt) concerning our returne to *London*, we are willing to de-

declare, that we looke upon it as a matter of so great weight, a
with reference to the affaires of this Kingdome, and to our own
inclinations and desires, that if all we can say, or do, can raise
mutuall confidence (the onely way with Gods blessing to make u
all happy) and by your incouragement the Lawes of the Land
and the government of the City of *London*, may recover some li
for our Security, we will overtake your desires, and be as soon
with you as you can wish. And in the meane time, we will b
sure, that neither the businesse of *Ireland*, or any other advanta
for this Kingdome shall suffer through through our default, or b
our absence: we being so far from repenting the Acts of ou
Justice, and grace, which we have already preformed to our peo
ple, that we shall with the same Alacrity, be still ready to add
such new ones, as may best advance the peace, honour, and pro
perity of this Nation,

FINIS.

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